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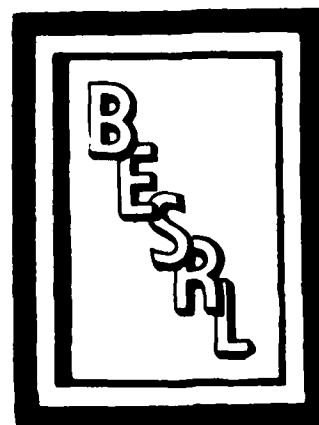
Research Memorandum 67-3

**DEVELOPMENT OF A BACKGROUND AND  
OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PREDICTING  
MILITARY DELINQUENCY**

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DEVELOPMENT OF A BACKGROUND AND OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE  
FOR PREDICTING MILITARY DELINQUENCY

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DEVELOPMENT OF A BACKGROUND AND OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE  
FOR PREDICTING MILITARY DELINQUENCY

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This report describes the development of the Background and Opinion Questionnaire, BOQ-1, PT 4647, an instrument prepared for validation as a predictor of the disciplinary records of enlisted men. This study is responsive to a request from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower.

Induction and enlistment standards were lowered in 1965 and 1966. As previous research at BESRL has shown a relationship between AFQT score and disciplinary record, these lowered standards are likely to result in an increase in the disciplinary rate. To counteract this likelihood, a representative of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower) requested research on a screening instrument to identify the potential disciplinary risk at the point of entry into the service. The instrument would be used as a preliminary screen for Category IV men; individuals scoring above a certain cutting score would be referred for an interview by a psychiatrist or clinical psychologist. Selection for or rejection from the service would be based on the interview.)

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower) suggested that the Personal Opinion Study, an instrument developed by Dr. Herbert Quay and Dr. Donald Peterson at the University of Illinois, be evaluated for the purpose. The instrument has several potential liabilities. It was standardized on adolescents. It was designed to differentiate among three diagnostic categories of juvenile delinquents. It was intended for application to an institutionalized delinquent population. In a military setting, it would be used as a screening tool with young adults, the vast majority of whom would not be delinquent. One other drawback to the use of this instrument was the possibility that some of the items might be objectionable to individuals from certain ethnic or socio-economic backgrounds. This problem was discussed with representatives of the Department of Defense. The ASD(M) indicated that a representative of the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs had approved use of the test for the purpose described.

As a more direct approach to the operational problem, an instrument developed in BESRL was also investigated. This was the Personal History Form OA-1, PT 3556, an instrument prepared under the Retention Standards Task for use in identifying men likely to become military disciplinary problems. The original form had been designed to be used after the enlisted men had had some exposure to Army life. It was therefore necessary to drop items which depend on Army experience.

## QUESTIONNAIRE CONTENT

The Background and Opinion Questionnaire, as reproduced for experimental use, consists of four sets of scored items and 18 unscored filler items:

Background and Opinion (22 Items)  
Psychopathic Delinquency (45 Items)  
Neurotic Delinquency (30 Items)  
Subcultural Delinquency (25 Items)

The four sets of items are to be separately validated as competing measures. BOQ-1 items and OA-1 items are intermingled throughout the instrument. (Item sources are given in the Appendix). A single set of directions covers the entire questionnaire. There are two separate administration manuals, however, PT 4648 for use with a Digitek answer sheet (PT 4526), and PT 4648M for use with a standard Army operational answer sheet (DA Form 6005).

### BACKGROUND AND OPINION ITEMS

Items selected for this set were taken from the Personal History Form, OA-1. The OA-1 was designed to test hypotheses concerning the background correlates of criminal and antisocial behaviors which make a man a source of trouble in the Army. Items relating to a prior history of lawbreaking, school conduct and achievement, employment record, socio-economic level of family, type of neighborhood in which reared, and family makeup and stability were sampled as possible contributors to prediction of military delinquency. Most of the items call for factual data rather than opinions and impressions. It was administered to approximately 4,000 basic trainees in 1958 under the Retention Standards Task. The criteria for the project were court-martial conviction and other-than-honorable discharge in the first tour of service. Moderate validity coefficients were obtained for 40 to 50 of the items in the questionnaire. However, many of these tapped early Army experience and some were overlapping in content.

Most of the items in the Personal History Form were multiple-choice in format and were phrased in the third person. The format of the answer sheets used with the Background and Opinion Questionnaire required that the items taken from the Personal History Form be phrased similarly to items from the Personal Opinion Study (true-false items written in the first person). The items selected from the Personal History Form were rewritten accordingly.

Items were selected from the Personal History Form for use in the Background and Opinion Questionnaire on the basis of two factors: item validity as determined in the Retention Standards Task and appropriateness of the item for use with men having no Army experience. Four items were taken

from the Personal History Section, eleven from the Activities Section, six from the Career Objectives Section, and one from the Annoyances Section.

#### PERSONAL OPINION STUDY

In the development of the Personal Opinion Study, items from a variety of questionnaires known to discriminate between delinquents and nondelinquents were factor analyzed on a sample composed of both institutionalized delinquents and public school students. Results indicated that the majority of the variance could be accounted for by three orthogonal factors.

Psychopathic Delinquency. The first of these factors, labeled psychopathic delinquency, was interpreted as reflecting tough, amoral, rebellious qualities, coupled with impulsivity, conspicuous distrust of authority, and relative freedom from family and other interpersonal ties. Cultural norms are not recognized.

Neurotic Delinquency. The neurotic delinquency factor also reflects impulsive and aggressive tendencies, but in this case is accompanied by tension, guilt, remorse, depression, and discouragement. Cultural norms are recognized but violated for personal satisfaction.

Subcultural Delinquency. The subcultural delinquency factor appears to mirror attitudes, values, and behaviors commonly thought to occur among members of culturally and economically disadvantaged delinquent gangs in whom personality maladjustment per se is not clearly evident. Recognition is given the norms of the gang rather than those of the wider culture.

#### UNSCORED FILLER ITEMS

The format of the Digitek answer sheet required that 18 filler items be inserted. Some of these items were selected from the Personal History Form and some were written for BOQ-1. These filler items were selected or written in such a manner that they match the surrounding items. None of these filler items were scored.

#### ANSWER SHEETS

The need for two answer sheets, hence two manuals, arose from field conditions which required modification of the original plans for data collection. Original plans called for testing at two or three Reception Stations and then conducting a by-name follow-up through Basic Combat Training (BCT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) or Combat Support Training (CST). This plan was revised at the request of USCONARC. The final study plan, drawn up with the aid of CONARC representatives, called

for testing all inductees and enlistees who would be processed for entrance to BCT on 13 March 1967. Testing at all Reception Stations was therefore necessary. The by-name follow-up was eliminated, and a system adopted whereby training classes would be followed. Criterion data would be collected on all BCT classes with a 13 March 1967 starting date. Similarly, data would be collected on all ATT and CST classes with an 8 May 1967 starting date. The original plan, being smaller in scope, required approximately 2,500 answer sheets. There were just enough Digitek answer sheets on hand in BESRL to run the study. The new plan called for over 4,000 answer sheets but because the time frame involved did not allow a reprinting of the Digitek answer sheet, DA Form 6005 was substituted at selected installations. The substitution of DA Form 6005 required an additional administration manual.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF BACKGROUND AND OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE, BOQ-1

The Background and Opinion Questionnaire, BOQ-1, PT 4647, was administered to a total of approximately 4,000 enlisted men undergoing initial processing at eleven U. S. Army Reception Stations. Administration took place in March 1967 under Optimum Mental Distribution Project d-11, "Relationship of Four Scales to Early Disciplinary Record."

#### REFERENCES

1. Klieger, W. A., Dubuisson, A. U., and Sargent, B. B. III. Correlates of disciplinary record in a wide-range sample. BESRL Technical Research Note 125. August 1962.
2. Rosenberg, N., Brown, Emma E., and deJung, J. E. Development of a background data questionnaire for identifying military delinquents. BESRL Research Memorandum 58-10. May 1958.
3. Quay, Herbert C. and Peterson, Donald R. The questionnaire measurement of personality dimensions associated with juvenile delinquency. Unpublished manuscript, NIH grants M-4904 and M-5627. Undated.

# APPENDIX

## SOURCES OF ITEMS IN THE BACKGROUND AND OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE, BOQ-1

BOQ-1 ITEM NO.	SOURCE	SOURCE ITEM NO.
1	Personal History Form	27, 28
2	"	11
3	"	72
4	"	228
5	Personal Opinion Study	57
6	"	58
7	"	83
8	"	86
9	"	88
10	"	89
11	"	90
12	"	16
13	"	23
14	"	24
15	"	27
16	"	30
17	"	2
18	"	3
19	"	4
20	"	6
21	Personal History Form	208
22	"	29
23	"	91
24	"	129
25	Personal Opinion Study	45
26	"	54
27	Unscored Filler Item	
28	Personal Opinion Study	20
29	"	21
30	"	22
31	"	56
32	"	48



BOQ-1 ITEM NO.

SOURCE

SOURCE ITEM NO.

33	Personal Opinion Study	Neurotic Delinquency Scale	49
34	" "	" "	51
35	" "	" "	69
36	" "	" "	73
37	" "	Subcultural Delinquency Scale	18
38	" "	" "	100
39	" "	" "	71
40	" "	" "	25
41	Personal History Form	Career Objectives Section	191B
42	" "	Activities Section	108
43	" "	" "	84
44	" "	Career Objectives Section	224
45	Personal Opinion Study	Psychothetic Delinquency Scale	28
46	" "	" "	63
47	" "	" "	66
48	" "	" "	67
49	" "	" "	70
50	" "	" "	72
51	" "	" "	37
52	" "	Neurotic Delinquency Scale	32
53	" "	" "	33
54	" "	" "	46
55	" "	" "	34
56	" "	" "	36
57	" "	Subcultural Delinquency Scale	39
58	" "	" "	41
59	" "	" "	81
60	" "	" "	7
61	Personal History Form	Activities Section	73
62	" "	" "	106
63	" "	Unscored filler item	36
64	" "	Career Objectives Section	191D
65	Personal Opinion Study	Psychothetic Delinquency Scale	38
66	" "	" "	17
67	" "	" "	19
68	Unscored Filler Item	Written for this instrument	

BOQ-1 ITEM NO.

SOURCE

SOURCE ITEM NO.

69	Personal Opinion Study	Psychothetic Delinquency Scale	31
70	"	"	35
71	"	"	40
72	"	Neurotic Delinquency Scale	53
73	"	"	59
74	"	"	64
75	"	"	65
76	"	"	77
77	"	Subcultural Delinquency Scale	8
78	"	"	11
79	"	"	15
80	"	"	42
81	Personal History Form	Personal History Section	14
82	"	Unscored filler item	69
83	"	Annoyances Section	168
84	Unscored Filler Item	Written for this instrument	
85	Personal Opinion Study	Psychothetic Delinquency Scale	44
86	"	"	80
87	"	"	76
88	"	"	93
89	"	"	94
90	"	"	95
91	"	"	98
92	"	Neurotic Delinquency Scale	78
93	"	"	79
94	Personal History Form	Unscored filler item	133
95	Personal Opinion Study	Neurotic Delinquency Scale	82
96	Personal History Form	Unscored filler item	120
97	Personal Opinion Study	Subcultural Delinquency Scale	50
98	"	"	52
99	Personal History Form	Unscored filler item	75
100	Personal Opinion Study	Subcultural Delinquency Scale	55
101	Personal History Form	Activities Section	94
102	"	"	113
103	"	Unscored filler item	60
104	Unscored Filler Item	Written for this instrument	

BOQ-1 ITEM NO.

SOURCE

SOURCE ITEM NO.

105	Personal Opinion Study	Psychopathic Delinquency Scale	1
106	" "	" "	5
107	Unscored Filler Item	Written for this instrument	
108	Personal Opinion Study	Psychopathic Delinquency Scale	10
109	" "	" "	12
110	" "	" "	13
111	" "	" "	14
112	" "	Neurotic Delinquency Scale	84
113	" "	" "	75
114	" "	" "	91
115	" "	" "	92
116	" "	" "	97
117	Personal History Form	Unscored filler item	88
118	Personal Opinion Study	Subcultural Delinquency Scale	96
119	" "	" "	61
120	" "	" "	62
121	Personal History Form	Career Objectives Section	215
122	" "	Activities Section	98
123	" "	Unscored filler item	48
124	" "	Activities Section	135
125	Personal Opinion Study	Psychopathic Delinquency Scale	74
126	" "	" "	99
127	Unscored Filler Item	Written for this instrument	
128	Personal Opinion Study	Psychopathic Delinquency Scale	60
129	" "	" "	26
130	" "	" "	9
131	" "	" "	29
132	Unscored Filler Item	Written for this instrument	
133	Personal Opinion Study	Neurotic Delinquency Scale	43
134	" "	" "	87
135	Personal History Form	Unscored filler item	83
136	Unscored Filler Item	Written for this instrument	
137	Personal History Form	Unscored filler item	74
138	Personal Opinion Study	Subcultural Delinquency Scale	68
139	" "	" "	47
140	" "	" "	85